# JANUARY 21, 2024 CONNECT

**EVENTS & NEWS** 



# WANDA MOKYKKYNEN MEMORIAL SERVICE Monday, January 29, 11:00 AM

Our sister in Christ, Wanda Moykkynen, was called to glory on January 2. A memorial service will be held at St. Matthew on Monday, January 29 at 11:00 AM. A light lunch will be served following the service.

#### **2023 GIVING STATEMENTS**

On Monday morning, January 22nd, the 2023 Annual Giving Statements will be sent out via email. Please look for an email from churchcenter.com. Your email will contain a unique link where you can download your 2023 statement. Please contact Joan at jkoczenasz@stmatthewgr.com or 616-942-9091 with any questions.

## CAMPING ANYONE? July 25-28

Join us for a fun weekend of camping (honestly, really more towards "glamping") at Dunes Harbor Family Camp at Silver Lake!The campground offers a pool and waterslide, volleyball pit, gaga ball, basketball, 9 square, ice cream shop, and so much more. Many camp activities too like crafts, kayaking and horseback riding (fees may apply). But best of all, get to know your fellow St Matthew families! **Deadline for Registration is January 22!** Register via the Church Center App.

#### **VOLUNTEERING WITH LITTLES IN THE NURSERY**

We love offering Nursery for both services as well as our Sunday Education time of 9:45-10:30 a.m. We could use a few more volunteers for all three time slots. It's a great time to cuddle a little one, read a story, play a little game with toys, and give their parents a chance to worship and grow in the faith. Our goal is to have enough volunteers so people are only serving once every other month. If you would be willing to serve or would like more information, please email or talk to Lori Wieneke at lwieneke@stmatthewgr.com.

# THEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE LIVE STREAMED AT ST. MATTHEW Saturday, February 3, 2024 from 8:30 AM - 12 PM

Have you ever been at odds with another person? Angry? Estranged from family members, co-workers or neighbors? Reconciliation often takes conversation, verbal interaction, words! The Michigan District 2024 Theological Conference, "Love Talks: Daring Conversations Toward Reconciliation" is designed for ALL people. St. Matthew will live stream the four speakers, Rev. David A. Davis, District President, Rev. Dr. Chad Lakies, Deaconess Dr. Tiffany Manor and Rev. Mark Schultz, If you plan to attend, just send a quick email to Pastor Diener at revjhdiener@gmail.com.

# WORSHIP SERVICE SUPPORT TRAINING Tuesday, February 6, 6 PM

All who feel called to serve in a greater capacity are welcome join us as we learn to serve God's Kingdom together. This will be an hour focused on honing both old and new skills in order to serve the people of God the best we can. We will learn how to be Ushers, Communion Assistants and even see the behind the scenes side of a worship service! Dinner will be included! Register in the Church Center App.

#### SAVE THE DATE FOR VBS...July 15 - 18!

Now is the time to plan your vacation and summer camps around "SCUBA" VBS happening at St. Matthew, July 15 - 18th from 6:00 - 8:15 p.m. Join us for a thrilling underwater journey where we will dive into the unceasing, boundless love of Jesus while submerging ourselves in God's Word and uncovering the true essence of the living water! More info in months ahead but save the date today!

## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY Thursdays, 9 AM

The book of James speaks to the realities of a living faith in Jesus—the kind of roll-up-your-sleeves and get-your-hands-dirty discipleship that is borne out of an authentic relationship with the risen Lord. With the help of Francis Chan, we'll be working through verse-by-verse, challenging ourselves to move beyond a private, intellectual knowledge of God and His Word, to a vibrant faith that impacts every square inch of life.

## PRAISE AND PLAY Tuesdays, 10 AM - 11:15 AM

Praise and Play Tuesdays for kiddos 5 and under with a caregiver starts back up Tuesday, January 16th! Our theme for January is "Praise You, Jesus" and we will be making instruments to help you praise Jesus at home too! There will be lots of singing, crafts, snacks, and tons of fun in the gym with our toys (scooters, bounce house, gymnastic equipment, musical instruments and more). Most importantly, we will learn a Bible point, passage, and song of the month. Cost is free. Please pre-register and invite your friends!

# WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP Wednesday, January 24 7-8:30 PM

Are you new to the church? Been here but wish you knew more people? Are you looking for a sense of community and connection? Join us Wednesday, January 24th from 7-8:30pm as we chat about our highs and lows and encourage one another in friendship. Questions? Email Kim - vogtkim@yahoo.com.

## **WINTER GROUPS & CLASSES**

PARENT CLASS Sundays at 9:45 AM

## LUTHERANISM 101 Sundays at 9:45 AM,

Join Pastor Meyer in the fellowship hall for a study of Lutheran doctrine and theology. Whether a long time Lutheran or new to the faith, this class will provide a picture of the rich tapestry of the Lutheran tradition.

#### STEPHEN MINISTRY

God does not intend for us to struggle alone. There's a Stephen Minister waiting to walk alongside you. If you or someone you know would benefit from a Stephen Minister, please contact the Church office at info@stmatthewgr.com



